

AFRICA : 13 NOVEMBRE 2019 : [La France va apporter sa contribution dans la lutte contre les groupes armés en Rdc / Le renforcement de la coopération entre la Rdc et les Usa au cœur des échanges au ministères des Affaires Etrangères]



(Photo : DigitalCongo.net 2019)

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Le renforcement de la coopération entre la Rdc et les Usa au cœur des échanges au ministères des Affaires Etrangères

[Peter Pham a indiqué au cours de son entretien avec Raymond Tchedy Patay que les Usa soutiennent les progrès du Président de la République, Félix Tshisekedi qui doivent être réalisés ainsi que son agenda des reformes à savoir : la lutte contre la corruption, la réforme des institutions, la paix et la sécurité]

BURUNDI :

Burundi / Défense : Rencontre des services secrets des Grands Lacs à DAR

<http://burundi-agnews.org/globalisation-mondialisation/burundi-defense-rencontre-des-services-secrets-des-grands-lacs-a-dar/>

GLOBALISATION, DEFENSE, GEOPOLITIQUE DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS, ONU – Rencontre organisée par l'ONU des services secrets de la région des Grands Lacs Africains à Dar Es Salam, concernant l'Accord cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la République démocratique du Congo et la région.

DAR ES SALAM (TANZANIE), Mardi 5 novembre 2019 – Dans le cadre des Politiques Etrangère, de Défense et Intérieure, Sécuritaire des Barundi, le Service National de Renseignement (SNR) du Burundi a participé à une rencontre des chefs des services de renseignement et de sécurité, de 4 pays dont la RDC, l'Ouganda, le Rwanda, et la Tanzanie.

Cette réunion d'ordre sécuritaire était organisée par le bureau du M. HUANG XIA (CHINE), Envoyé spécial de l'ONU pour les Grands Lacs, en présence de M. MUBIRI – MUITA Zachary (RDC) , Secrétaire Exécutif de l' – International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – (ICGLR).

Ensemble, ils ont évaluer l'option non-Militaire contre les Groupes Armés et Forces négatives en RDC Congo et dans la région, en présence des pays garants de l'Accord cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la République démocratique du Congo et la région.

Cet Accord-cadre fait intervenir des acteurs comme : le UN Great Lakes ; l'Accord Cadre de de ICGLR International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) ; la Communauté économique des pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL); l'Union Africaine ; la Communauté pour le développement de l'Afrique australe (SADC); l'Union Européenne ; la Belgique ; les États-Unis (AFRICOM) ; la France et le Royaume-Uni.

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 11 novembre 2019

TANZANIA :

Tanzania says gunmen kill 6 in ambush near Mozambique border

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnn/news-pmnn/politics-news-pmnn/tanzania-says-gunmen-kill-6-in-ambush-near-mozambique-border>

DAR ES SALAAM — Unknown gunmen killed six farmers near Tanzania's southern border with Mozambique, a senior police official said on Wednesday, amid growing concerns over Islamist militants in a poor region where foreign companies are developing gas deposits.

The ambush on Tuesday night, on an island in the Ruvuma River that forms the border between the two countries, is the latest in a spate of execution-style attacks in the area since 2017 that have so far killed more than 100 people.

The gas deposits are in the northern Mozambican province Cabo Delgado, and researchers have found that the militants who are based there and launch attacks on both sides of the border have links to Islamist groups in Tanzania, Somalia, Kenya and the Great Lakes region, where some also received training.

"A group of armed men is believed to have entered the country from Mozambique, ambushed the farmers at an island, rounded them up and shot them," Tanzania's director of criminal investigations (DCI), Robert Boaz, told journalists.

Seven people were injured and hospitalized, and Tanzanian security forces are searching for the attackers, he said.

RWANDA :

Tension, drama as Rwanda hands over bodies of two Ugandans shot dead November 12, 2019 /
Written by URN

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/62607-drama-as-rwanda-hands-over-bodies-of-ugandans-shot-dead>

Drama ensued at the Uganda-Rwanda border of Buziba in Kamwezi, Rukiga district this morning as Rwanda handed over the bodies of two Ugandans shot dead by Rwandan security last weekend.

John Bosco Tuhirirwe and Job Ebyarishaga, both residents of Kamwezi, were shot dead by Rwandan security at Tabarwe sector in Nyagatare district in the wee hours of Sunday morning, about 200 meters from Ugandan border on allegations of smuggling tobacco.

Three other Ugandans who were with the deceased; Aron Ainebyoona, Christopher Byamukama and Emmanuel Niwamanya managed to flee back to Uganda unharmed. Local leaders from Rukiga district and members of the deceased's families gathered at Uganda-Rwanda border in Buziba around 11 am this morning to receive the bodies from Rwandan authorities.

The Ugandan team was led by Eddie Sserunjoji, the Kigezi Region police commander, Elly Maate, the Kigezi Region police spokesperson, Prikeria Muhindo Mwiine, the Rukiga resident district commissioner and Jackson Muganiizi, the Rukiga district LC vice-chairman.

It took about an hour for Rwandan security officials led by Emmanuel Hatari, the Eastern Province region police commander and David Claudian Mushabe, the Nyagatare district mayor to arrive with the bodies amidst tight security. They tried to hand over the bodies with just their death certificates.

However, Ugandan security authorities demanded that their counterparts present a postmortem and handover report before they receive the bodies. The Rwandan authorities instead handed over the deceased's death certificates, which didn't go down well with the Ugandan authorities.

The Ugandan delegation was angered further when they realized that the death certificates were written in French and Kinyarwanda languages instead of English, which they could easily understand. Sserunjoji, Maate and Muhindo declined to receive the bodies and demanded that the Rwandan officials first write a handover report.

This forced some Rwandan officials to drive back to Nyagatare to pick a police stamp and headed papers to write the handover report after the Ugandan team rejected a draft on a plain piece of paper. It took about one and a half hours for the handover report to be drafted. The Rwandan team promised to hand over the postmortem reports through their embassy. The Ugandan officials condemned the shooting of the Ugandans, saying killing doesn't solve problems.

Prikeria Muhindo Mwiine, the Rukiga resident district commissioner, said the two should have been arrested and charged with smuggling.

"We're really sorry as people of Uganda, people of Kamwezi to have lost these two sons of ours. It is really very unfortunate that they met their death and I want to condemn the killing. People should be arrested and put to prison. Killing will not solve problems. It is unfortunate that we lost our people." she said.

Rwanda has since justified the killings claiming their police officers acted in self-defence. David Claudian Mushabe, the mayor of Nyagatare district maintained that the two were killed when they assaulted police officers. Mushabe said the shooting dead of the two Ugandans should be a lesson to Uganda that the two countries operate and deal in crime in different ways.

"When police officers tried to stop the smugglers, they refused and eventually violently wanted even to kill the police officers. What happened, in self-defence, the police shot dead two of them. Besides that, to me, I can say it is very unfortunate though there is a lesson to learn. Those who smuggle should not be violent, also they should know that there are some gazetted areas they should be using if they are going for commercial businesses and this should be known. It is a pity to have these people killed but again every country has its own rules, what it likes to do, its own mandate and its own security." said Mushabe.

Johnson Mushure, the father of Job Ebyarishaga said the death of his son is a big loss to the family since he was the sole breadwinner. He wants the Ugandan government to compensate his family and take care of the funeral arrangements.

Tensions between Uganda and Rwanda were heightened even further when in February this year when Rwanda closed its borders with Uganda - blocking any movement of goods or people across the borders. Rwanda accused Uganda of abducting its citizens and locking them up in ungazetted areas as well as hosting and facilitating dissidents plotting against its government.

Uganda denied the accusations but also accused Rwanda of destabilising peace and security within Uganda through infiltrating the security agencies including police, army, Internal Security Organisations among others.

In May this year, Alex Nyesiga Atuheire was shot dead by Rwandan soldiers who crossed into Uganda to arrest an unidentified smuggler accused of illegally taking second-hand clothes to Rwanda. Atuheire was killed following a scuffle between the soldiers and the locals who were protesting the illegal and provocative entry of Rwandan security into Ugandan territory. There have also been reports of several Rwandans arrested by Rwandan security as they attempted to cross over to Uganda to access healthcare and education services.

The diplomatic relations between the two countries seemed to have been taking a friendlier approach lately after Uganda President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame met in Angola to iron out their differences in August. But after a few days, telecommunications authorities in both countries blocked access to each others news websites.

RDC CONGO :

La France va apporter sa contribution dans la lutte contre les groupes armés en Rdc
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5dcbd433c4ae080004095e99/>

Kinshasa 13-11-2019 Politique - Le président français promet de collaborer avec la Rdc dans le cadre de la lutte contre les groupes armés qui mettent en insécurité la partie orientale de ce pays

« Nous allons lutter contre les groupes armés qui pactisent avec Daesh. La coopération se fera en matière de renseignement, mais aussi la coopération militaire. Nous allons aussi mener une action diplomatique pour sanctionner les leaders de ces groupes, dans le cadre des Nations unies. La France est engagée aux côtés pour lutter contre ces groupes armés qui déstabilisent le pays. Je souhaite que les pays de la région puissent être engagés aux côtés du Président Tshisekedi, je pense aux amis Rwandais et ougandais, dans ce combat ». Ces propos sont ceux du Président français Emmanuel Macron à l'issue d'un entretien mardi avec son homologue congolais à Paris.

La France, a-t-il poursuivi, s'engage aussi échanger des renseignements et s'investir dans la coopération militaire pour éradiquer les groupes armés qui écument la partie orientale de la RDC.

Par ailleurs, ce pays va intervenir dans le secteur de l'enseignement. « Je souhaite que nous puissions accompagner le Président dans les projets de grandes ambitions qu'il a lancés. En matière éducative, nous allons investir au moins 15 millions d'Euros pour accompagner ce formidable projet de la gratuité de l'éducation et en particulier, nous allons nous engager sur la formation des maîtres. Nous allons engager, à côté de ce partenariat bilatéral, le partenariat mondial pour l'éducation », a précisé le président français.

Emmanuel Macron a en outre promis d'accompagner le Président Tshisekedi dans ses projets de grandes ambitions qui visent à améliorer la vie des Congolais. De même qu'il promet une coopération en matière de santé pour la stabilisation et la reconstruction du système de santé, ainsi que dans le secteur de l'agriculture.

Pour sa part, le Président Tshisekedi qui a exprimé sa satisfaction de voir la France revenir en pointe dans tous ces domaines a invité son homologue en RDC en 1920. Invitation à laquelle il a répondu favorablement.

Félix Tshisekedi, s'est aussi entretenu le même mardi avec le Secrétaire général de Reporter Sans Frontière (RSF), Christophe Deloire et du Journaliste en Danger (JED)/ Kinshasa Tshivys Tshivuadi. Les échanges ont tourné sur l'amélioration de la liberté de la presse.

Ses deux hôtes lui ont présenté deux dossiers qui sont la réforme de la loi sur la presse et la mise en place d'un mécanisme pour la protection des journalistes. Boni Tsala T. / (BTT/PKF)

Le renforcement de la coopération entre la Rdc et les Usa au cœur des échanges au ministères des Affaires Etrangères
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5dcc08c3c4ae080004095ea4/>

Kinshasa 13-11-2019 Politique - J. Peter Pham a indiqué au cours de son entretien avec Raymond Tchedy Patay que les Usa soutiennent les progrès du Président de la République, Félix Tshisekedi

qui doivent être réalisés ainsi que son agenda des réformes à savoir : la lutte contre la corruption, la réforme des institutions, la paix et la sécurité.

Les Etats Unis d'Amérique sont disposés à renforcer davantage les liens de coopération avec la Rdc.

C'est ce qui justifie la rencontre entre l'envoyé spécial des Etats-Unis d'Amérique pour la région des Grands lacs et le vice-ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Peter Pham a indiqué au cours de son entretien avec Raymond Tchedy Patay que les Usa soutiennent les progrès du Président de la République, Félix Tshisekedi qui doivent être réalisés ainsi que son agenda des réformes à savoir : la lutte contre la corruption, la réforme des institutions, la paix et la sécurité.

Le diplomate américain a également salué les efforts qu'entreprend Félix Tshisekedi pour ramener la Rdc dans le développement tant attendu par le peuple congolais.

L'envoyé spécial des Usa pour la région des Grands Lacs a par ailleurs rappelé qu'il s'est entretenu avec le Président de la République congolais.

« Je suis venu entendre Félix Tshisekedi et d'autres personnalités notamment, les Ong, la société civile, les leaders religieux pour écouter leurs besoins et exprimer leurs préoccupations au gouvernement des Usa. Nous sommes les premiers à reconnaître le fait historique de la passation pacifique et civilisée au pouvoir en Rdc et à cet effet, nous avons lancé un partenariat privilégié pour la paix, la prospérité du Congo, ensemble avec les Usa », a-t-il précisé. Gisèle Tshijuka / (GTM/Yes)

« Vérités des urnes » : le cardinal Ambongo invite Fayulu à oublier
<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5dcdbd163c4ae080004095e98/>

Kinshasa 13-11-2019 Politique - La conférence de presse d'hier mardi tenue par le cardinal Fridolin Ambongo a aussi concerné l'évolution politique connue par la RD Congo. Le nouveau cardinal a ainsi encouragé l'opposant Martin Fayulu – qui campe toujours sur la « vérité des urnes » – à évoluer.

Le candidat de la coalition Lamuka qui est resté nostalgique de la dernière présidentielle du 30 décembre 2018 en continuant à revendiquer la « vérité des urnes » a été convié à tourner la page par le cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, un des grands artisans de l'accord de la Saint sylvestre. Au cours de la conférence de presse donnée le mardi 12 novembre 2019, le prélat catholique a encouragé l'opposant Fayulu à « évoluer ».

"Nous ne devons pas toujours revenir au passé, revenir toujours sur la situation de la vérité des urnes. L'église évolue", a lancé le cardinal. Il a également encouragé l'initiative du plan de sortie de crise proposé par Martin Fayulu. "On ne peut qu'encourager l'initiative de Fayulu. Il y a une crise mais après l'histoire a évolué. Nous ne devons plus revenir sur la question des urnes (...) Nous devons évoluer. Si Fayulu propose le plan de sortie de crise, nous ne pouvons qu'encourager", a déclaré le cardinal et Vice-président de la Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO). Dans sa deuxième casquette, Fridolin Ambongo s'était activement engagé dans la médiation du dialogue politique dit du « Centre interdiocésain » organisé entre le pouvoir et l'opposition pour obtenir l'organisation des élections.

Le plan de sortie de crise proposé par Martin Fayulu prévoit l'organisation d'un autre dialogue afin d'organiser une transition qui débouchera sur des nouvelles élections.

« Jusque-là, Fayulu revenait sur la vérité des urnes, mais s'il arrive à faire une proposition de sortie de crise, nous ne pouvons que l'encourager. Est-ce que c'est réalisable ? Ce n'est pas à moi de le dire, mais l'initiative est à saluer », a répondu Ambongo sur cette proposition de ce candidat malheureux à la dernière présidentielle congolaise. Dido Nsapu (DN/PKF)

UGANDA :

Uganda sends protest note to Rwanda over deadly border shooting / Tuesday November 12 2019
<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Uganda-sends-protest-note-Rwanda-over-deadly-border-shooting/688334-5346948-o7vgu9/index.html>

By MONITOR TEAM

Government of Uganda on Tuesday wrote a note verbale to Rwanda after Rwandan soldiers shot and killed two Ugandan traders over allegations of smuggling.

Job Ebyarishaga and Bosco Tuhirwe were killed at Tabagwe village in Nyagatare District in Rwanda on allegations of smuggling tobacco into the neighbouring East African country.

The Kigali administration said on Sunday that the two traders were shot in self-defence after they allegedly turned violent and assaulted police officers on duty.

However, government of Uganda spokesperson, Mr Ofwono Opondo said Tuesday that Kampala administration had written to Rwanda asking for a joint investigation into the said murders and also demanded that the perpetrators be held accountable.

The protest was delivered to Rwanda's High Commissioner to Uganda, Maj Gen. Frank Mugambage, by Ambassador Patrick Mugoya, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda.

READ:Rwanda hands over bodies of slain Ugandan traders

"The Government of Uganda protests in the strongest terms the murder of its nationals by Rwandan security personnel for allegedly being involved in smuggling of goods across the common border. The alleged crime cannot justify the high handed and criminal act by the Rwandan security personnel, against unarmed civilians residing along the common border. Furthermore, the Ministry notes that these murders are inimical to the ongoing efforts to improve relations between the two countries. The Ministry demands that a joint investigation in the murders be conducted and the perpetrators held accountable," a statement issued by Mr Ofwono reads in part.

Mr Ofwono further said the Kampala administration was also concerned about an incident in which a Rwandan national was shot and severely wounded on Rwandan territory, while returning from Ugandan territory and was forced to flee back to Uganda.

One Peter Havugimana, 28, a resident of Kabaya village, Gishari Parish in Rubaya Sub-county, Gicumbi District was on November 4 received by Ugandan authorities at Rushaki B Cell, Karujanga Parish, Rubaya Sub-county, Kabale District after being shot in the shoulder from about 200 meters in Rwanda, on the border with Uganda. Havugimana was shot while carrying about 10 kilogrammes of potatoes from Uganda into Rwanda. After the shooting, he ran back into Uganda territory for safety.

Uganda's oil has not been sold - govt By Tracy Gwambe / Added 13th November 2019 04:33 PM
https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1510549/uganda-oil-sold-govt

Oil companies are not selling the oil, what is being transferred is purely the test crude.

A week ago, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda hosted a knowledge-sharing seminar and field tour for social media influencers.

Below is my experience over the two days in the Albertine Graben.

Starting with a workshop in Kampala, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, (PAU) got media personalities, social media influencers and other stakeholders up to speed on the activities in the oil industry.

The purpose of the seminar was to dispel any speculation about the oil sector and allegations that oil is being sold secretly.

Uganda and DRC to Improve Infrastructure to Ease Business By Halima Athumani / November 10, 2019 11:40 AM

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/uganda-and-drc-improve-infrastructure-ease-business>

ENTEBBE, UGANDA - Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo sign agreements to work on key road networks within 24 months, connecting the two countries to ease business. However, security concerns on the routes remain key for business.

Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have signed an agreement to increase trade and investment between the two Great Lakes Region countries.

Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Felix Tshisekedi of the DRC noted that there are numerous trade restricting measures and infrastructure obstacles that raise the cost of doing business in the region.

Museveni noted that both Uganda and the DRC now import many products from China, Japan and India, instead of manufacturing them at home.

The total distance of the three key road networks will be 1,182 kilometers within 24 months after the respective ministers have agreed on implementation details.

“One road we want to work on is from Goli to Mahagi-Bunia. Then the other road would be from Mpondwe to Beni. The other road would be from Bunagana to Rutshuru to Goma. So, when you produce, you supply goods, you supply services. But you also create jobs for the youth,” said Museveni.

There have been expressions of fear among business about the militias operating in the eastern D.R.C. that may destabilize trade between the two countries. However, Tshisekedi reassured them that the two countries will ensure there is peace to promote business and development.

“We intend to develop or build infrastructure so we can carry out economic activity to lead to economic growth for the benefit of our people. Because as you know, in the absence of development, poverty sets in and becomes a vector of instability,” he said.

Trade this year between Uganda and the DRC, through May 18, is over \$532 million, with Congo only exporting \$30 million in goods to Uganda.

Evelyn Anite, Uganda’s state minister for investment, says the launch of the business forum and signing of the agreements will open a DRC market of 80 million for Ugandan businesses just and a Ugandan market of 40 million for the DRC.

“What are these things? Cement, scholastic materials, building materials. We have a company in this country that manufactures 10,000 blankets in a month, but only 3,000 gets consumed in the country because the population size is small. So, there’s a lot of natural resources that the Congolese have. They do have gold, they have palm oil. So, if they can process that and bring it to our country, that trade imbalance over time is going to improve,” said Anite.

Both countries continue to face the brunt of militia movements especially in the eastern part of the DRC. that has seen thousands killed and thousands more cross into Uganda as refugees.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Cyril Ramaphosa takes SA to 11th BRICS summit in Brazil Andrea Chothia by Andrea Chothia / 2019-11-12

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/cyril-ramaphosa-11-brics-summit-in-brazil-13-november-2019/>

President Cyril Ramaphosa is to lead a South African delegation to the 2019 11th BRICS summit in Brazil on 13 and 14 November.

The importance of the BRICS summit

According to the Political Bureau, BRICS is an association of five major emerging countries, made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa-, which together represent about 42% of the global population, 23% of GDP, 30% of the territory and 18% of the global trade.

The 11th BRICS Summit is hosted by the Federative Republic of Brazil, as led by President Jair Bolsonaro, as the 2019 BRICS chair and is convened under the theme “Economic Growth for an Innovative Future.”

Brazil’s priorities for its 2019 chair-ship are innovation, fighting transnational crime, health and promoting trade and investment with a focus on infrastructure development and possible Public Private Partnerships.

Ramaphosa at the BRICS Summit

Presidential spokesperson Khusela Diko, said the summit will be preceded by the BRICS Business Forum where President Ramaphosa and other leaders will interact with the Business Council to strengthen and promote economic, trade, business and investment ties amongst the members.

She said South Africa’s membership of BRICS enables the country to employ additional and powerful tools in its fight to address the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality through increased trade, investment, tourism, capacity building, skills and technology transfers.

“These objectives are further realised through BRICS’ Financial Institutions like the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Africa Regional Centre (ARC). The Johannesburg-based ARC, notably, is playing a catalytic role in providing financial and project preparation support for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in South Africa and Africa.

At an Institutional Development level, South Africa derives crucial benefits through the Track II institutions such as the BRICS Business Council and the BRICS Think-Tank Council, as well as the creation of the BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism.

Furthermore, the establishment in 2016 of the BRICS STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) funding mechanism and framework programme, is an example of the vital support for capacity building, as well as skills and technology transfer,” Diko said.

Ramaphosa to ensure implementation from past summits

The President’s engagement is to contribute to the future direction of the Summit, to strengthen the relations and mutually beneficial cooperation across the four pillars of cooperation, particularly in

intra-BRICS trade and investment, as well as to ensure the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the 10th BRICS Summit hosted in South Africa in 2018.

The Summit will welcome the adoption of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Advisory Group on the BRICS Partnership on the New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR), which is in line with South Africa's theme of the Chair-ship in 2018, namely "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".

South Africa has made concerted efforts to place the African Continent and the Global South on the agenda of BRICS and to harmonise policies adopted in regional and international fora with those pursued in BRICS, i.e. Africa's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Here's who else will be attending the summit

Ramaphosa will be accompanied by the First Lady Dr Tshepo Motsepe, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni, Minister of Trade and Industry Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize and Minister of State Security Ayanda Dlodlo.

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is acting president from Tuesday until Friday.

Deputy President David Mabuza is also on a working visit out of the country.

KENYA:

Kenya: Global summit starts to end maternal deaths

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/kenya-global-summit-starts-to-end-maternal-deaths/1643251>

Summit brings together over 7,000 delegates from 164 countries, including heads of state and over 200 civil society groups

Andrew Wasike | 12.11.2019

NAIROBI, Kenya

A summit on population and development kicked off in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Tuesday, with world leaders and delegates focused on how to end violence against women and child marriages.

Hosted by the UN Population Fund and the governments of Kenya and Denmark, the International Conference on Population and Development brought together over 7,000 delegates from 164 countries, including heads of state, government officials, lawmakers, and NGO representatives, among others.

Opening the three-day summit, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said: “I really do believe the reason so many of us have convened in Nairobi is because we recognize that advancing people’s rights, in particular, women’s rights, their choices and their well-being, is the path to prosperous and resilient societies. Indeed, it has often been said, ‘Women are the backbone of the family and the bedrock of a nation’.”

Kenyatta’s sentiments were echoed by other world leaders attending the summit, with many stressing the value of investing in women and girls.

Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni called for a push in African states to ensure no woman dies for want of reproductive care.

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark told the gathering, “We cannot return to a time when women had little say on reproductive issues, we are paving the way for a more just and prosperous future,” sentiments that were echoed by Rasmus Prehn, the Danish minister for development.

Among priority actions, the world leaders focused on how to boost access to secondary and tertiary education for boys and girls, accelerating the reduction in maternal deaths, eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriages, and ending violence against women and girls.

Kenyatta called for a commitment to accelerate women’s equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political, public, and corporate spheres.

Kenya Hosts International Conference on Population and Development By Rael Ombuor / November 12, 2019 12:38 PM

NAIROBI - Kenya is hosting a United Nations-coordinated conference on population and development this week in Nairobi. Over 6,000 delegates from 160 nations, including heads of state, are attending the three-day forum to discuss reproductive health rights, ending gender-based violence, and sustainable development.

The U.N.'s International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) opened Tuesday with repeated vows made at the first summit in Cairo, twenty-five years ago.

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, a co-host of the conference, underscored the significance of the summit.

"I think we can all agree that ICPD was a turning point, a defining moment in our history," Crown Princess Mary said. "In Cairo, the world articulated a bold new vision about the relationship between population, development and individual well-being and the empowering of women and meeting people's needs for education and health, including sexual and reproductive health, are necessary for both individual advancement and balanced development."

The summit aims to examine the progress made since a 1994 Program of Action drafted in Cairo.

More than 150 countries signed on to the plan, which placed women's empowerment, individual dignity and human rights, and the right to plan one's family at the heart of development.

In Nairobi Tuesday, heads of state stressed their countries' policies and commitments to gender equality, sexual and reproductive health.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta pledged to end female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2022.

Kenyatta was among African leaders who called also for ending child marriage.

"I believe that we can all commit to eliminate child marriages. The percentage of young women between 20 and 24 years of age who are married before their 18th birthday has declined from 34 percent in 1994 to 25 percent in 2019," said Kenyatta. "But the absolute number of girls under 18 who are at risk of child marriage is estimated at 10.3 million in 2019."

Child marriage and sexual and reproductive healthcare are controversial issues in African nations where traditional cultures often clash with campaigns for individual rights.

In some countries like Kenya, laws that limit access to abortion services have fueled unsafe, often deadly, back-street abortions.

At the conference Tuesday, the U.N.'s Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed tied women's rights squarely to development.

"The power to choose the number, timing and spacing of children is a human right that can bolster well-being, economic and social development. And when people can exercise their rights, they thrive," said Mohammed. "And they do and, so do societies at large."

To reach those goals, the Nairobi Conference on Population and Development is expected to produce pledges of financial support.

But it will take more than money and talk to see some African nations enforce laws and regulations on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health. / Rael Ombuor

ANGOLA:

Angola extends deadline for bids for international mining tender
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/13/c_138552587.htm
Source: Xinhua| 2019-11-13 23:01:07|Editor: Mu Xuequan

LUANDA, Nov. 13 (Xinhua) -- Angola on Wednesday said it has extended from November to December the deadline for bids receipt and the opening of international tender for the acquisition of rights to prospect and exploit diamond, iron and phosphate in five regions of the country.

The extension was made at the request of some potential contenders, the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Petroleum said.

The ministry said it has extended to Dec. 18 the deadline for contenders to introduce their bids and Dec. 19 for the opening of the proposals.

The international mining tender was opened on Oct. 7, following roadshows for its technical presentation held in Luanda, Beijing, Dubai, London, and New York.

Entries were expected to be introduced until Nov. 18 for eligible Angolan and foreign firms or joint ventures.

Spacecom Deploys C-Band to Bridge Angola's Digital Divide / By Jeffrey Hill | November 12, 2019
<https://www.satellitetoday.com/broadband/2019/11/12/spacecom-deploys-c-band-to-bridge-angolas-digital-divide/>

AMOS satellite operator Spacecom has finalized a contract to provide C-Band high-throughput capacity to an unnamed "leading Angolan satellite services company." Spacecom confirmed November 12th that it would provide the capacity through a single beam from its new AMOS-17 communication satellite, and that the customer in Angola would use the services primarily for cellular backhaul to connect rural and remote communities across the Southern Africa countryside.

Spacecom added that its Vertical Solutions Division would support the Angolan customer in deploying infrastructure necessary for the services, and that the operator's goal is to reduce the client's initial capex and ongoing opex costs to fulfill a digital divide mission.

"AMOS-17 is expected to begin commercial services later in 2019," Jacob Keret, Spacecom senior vice-president commented in a statement. "[The satellite] is already bringing new and repeat customer business. We are very satisfied to see this movement. Within a short time, Spacecom have three satellites serving Africa: AMOS-7, AMOS-4 and AMOS-17 all of which are enabling clients to reduce Africa's digital divide."

AFRICAN UNION /UA :

AU hails peace, security partnership with UN across Africa

Source: Xinhua| 2019-11-12 00:10:35|Editor: Mu Xuequan
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/12/c_138547156.htm

ADDIS ABABA, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- The African Union (AU) on Monday commended the success of peace and security sector ties between the AU Commission and the United Nations in bringing about stability across various African countries.

The statement was made by Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security on Monday during the meeting of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the AU Commission Peace and Security Council at the AU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

"The partnership between the AU and the UN is bearing fruit in different African countries, including the Central African Republic (CAR), Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Madagascar and Mali, and it can only grow in stature and strength," Chergui said.

"The increasing collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and our Peace and Security Council is commendable," Chergui said, adding "I believe that a successful implementation of post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding on the continent requires the active engagement of both organizations in order to take advantage of existing resources, mechanisms, processes and synergies."

Chergui also stressed that both the AU and UN "have made a commitment to work together towards the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 sustainable development agenda, in recognition of the nexus between peace, security, human rights and development."

"In my view, if we are to concretely consolidate gains made thus far, we will have to continue dedicating due attention to addressing root causes and tackling socio-economic dimensions of conflict, taking into account the voices of affected communities including women and the youth when designing interventions for sustained resilience and livelihood options for communities on the continent," he added.

The meeting, among other things, envisaged to uplift joint efforts of the AU and UN to reflect and focus on opportunities and progress that concern the two organizations' strategic partnership.

Roundup: African Union to host African Industrialization Week amid calls for industry-policy coherence

Source: Xinhua| 2019-11-08 23:00:20|Editor: yan http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/08/c_138540473.htm

ADDIS ABABA, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) -- This year's edition of the African Industrialization Week (AIW-2019) is set to attract over 1,000 African experts and policymakers amid calls for industry policy coherence, the African Union (AU) announced on Friday.

The AU said in a statement issued on Friday that the 2019 edition of the AIW, slated from November 18 to 22 at the AU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, will be held under the theme "Positioning African Industry to Supply the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Market."

The week-long event will also feature the Africa Industrialization Day on Nov. 20 that will bring together a number of African leaders in Addis Ababa.

The continental event is expected to attract sectoral profiles ranging from high-tech companies, manufacturers, tourism, medicare, automotive, textiles, fertilizers, and the financial sector, among others.

The event will bring together more than 1,000 multi-stakeholder delegates drawn from the private sector, public sector, civil society, development partners, trade and industry think-tanks within and outside Africa, according to the AU.

The AU also announced that 900 representatives across various sectors have confirmed their participation so far, registering a major boost compared to the 300 delegates in 2018's edition of the event.

The AU also noted that the sectoral profiles that are set to gather at this year's AIW are "critical areas for Africa's economic transformation in the medium-to- long-term," the AU said.

The AU also emphasized the vital importance of this year's edition of the Africa Industrialization Week, as it builds upon the "positive outcomes" of the inaugural 2018 edition of AIW as well as its timing on the backdrop of the launch of the Operational Phase of the AfCFTA Agreement in July this year.

"With the AfCFTA ushering in a market space of at least 3.4 trillion U.S. dollars, and a consumer base of 1.27 billion people, there is no doubt that moving the continent's industrial production frontier, becomes critical, as enterprises tap into large scale opportunities on the back of free trade," an AU statement read.

The AIW 2019, which is said to leverage public-private dialogue platforms, mainly seeks to engender industry policy coherence in Africa, and enhance effective engagement of key stakeholders by the AU Commission on industrialization and trade-related subjects in the context of the AfCFTA, it was noted.

The annual celebration also envisaged accelerating synergies between the private and public sectors as they interface with global capital and technology, as well as exploring the possibilities of a new model of developing Africa's productive capacities to boost intra-African trade.

The AU, noting the urgency to boost industrial capacity to supply the AfCFTA market and beyond, also stressed that the AIW celebrations "will explore tools and business instruments that strengthen industry sector's capacity to compete and innovate."

The promotion of domestic and foreign investment is also said to be another prime aspiration for this year's continental industrialization week.

The continental industrialization week is organized by the AU Commission's Department of Trade and Industry in collaboration with International Trade Centre, Geneva (ITC), Ethiopian Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Africa Free Zones Organization (AFZO), the UN Industrial Development

Organization (UNIDO), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), European Union, among others.

Communique adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 892nd meeting held on 6 November 2019, on the situation in Guinea Bissau

<https://reliefweb.int/report/guinea-bissau/communique-adopted-peace-and-security-council-psc-african-union-au-its-892nd>

2019 Africa Visa Openness Index: African Union Commission, African Development Bank report shows wins in visa restrictions across Africa

By African Development Bank

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/11/2019-africa-visa-openness-index-african-union-commission-african-development-bank-report-shows-wins-visa-restrictions-across-africa/>

- For the first time, on average, Africans can travel to approximately 27 countries visa-free or with a visa on arrival - Ethiopia moves up a record 32 places on the Index, entering the top 20 most visa-open countries in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Nov 12 2019 - For the first time, African travellers have liberal access to over half the continent, the 2019 Africa Visa Openness Index published by the African Union Commission and African Development Bank, reveals. The report was launched on Monday on the sidelines of the Africa Investment Forum, which opened in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The progress on visa openness in Africa follows growing momentum for greater integration between countries and signals that policymakers across the continent are pushing reforms, making it easier for African businessmen and women, investors, students and tourists to travel.

This fourth edition of the Index shows that 47 countries improved or maintained their visa openness scores in 2019. African visitors no longer need a visa to travel to a quarter of other African countries, whereas visa-free travel was only possible to a fifth of the continent in 2016. Currently, 21 African countries also offer eVisas to make travel more accessible, up from 16 in 2018, 13 in 2017, and 9 in 2016).

The 2019 top performers on visa openness rank among the top countries for foreign direct investment in Africa, and benefit from strong levels of growth, including in tourism. The Index shows that Seychelles and Benin remain the top two countries on visa openness in Africa, with their visa-free policy for all African visitors. Ethiopia moved up a record 32 places on the Index and entered the top 20 most visa-open countries in Africa.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi A. Adesina said, “Our work on the Africa Visa Openness Index continues to monitor how Africa is doing on free movement of people. Progress is being made but much still needs to be done. To integrate Africa, we should bring down the walls. The free movement of people, and especially labour mobility, are crucial for promoting investments.”

The Visa Openness Index has inspired reforms in more than 10 African countries including Ghana, Benin, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Kenya, unlocking tremendous potential for the promotion of intra-regional tourism, trade and investments.

Despite the gains shown in the report, there is the need to move further. In 2019, only 26% of Africans are able to get visas on arrival in other African countries, up by only 1% compared to 2016.

Countries need to make more progress on visa regimes, including introducing visas-on-arrival. By breaking down borders, Africa will be able to capitalize on gains from regional integration initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Single African Air Transport Market, and the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons.

“It cannot be stressed enough how crucial integration is for the development of the continent and the fulfilment of its people’s aspiration to well-being. I congratulate those member states that have taken measures to ease the procedures for the entry of African nationals into their territories, and urge those that have not yet done so to join this growing momentum,” said Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

About the Africa Visa Openness Index

The Africa Visa Openness Index measures how open African countries are when it comes to visas by looking at what they ask of citizens from other countries in Africa when they travel. The Index is tracking changes in country scores over time to show which countries are making improvements that support freer movement of people across Africa.

Download the 2019 Africa Visa Openness Index and find out more [here](#).

Contacts:

African Development Bank: Amba Mpoke-Bigg, Communication and External Relations Department, email: a.mpoke-bigg@afdb.org

Bureau of the Deputy Chairperson African Union Commission: Klenam Normanyo, Assistant to the Deputy Chairperson, e-mail NormanyoK@africa-union.org

CHINA /AFRICA :

Incubation zone to be launched to promote China-Africa trade

Source: Xinhua| 2019-11-10 20:42:13|Editor: Li Xia http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/10/c_138544428.htm

CHANGSHA, Nov. 10 (Xinhua) -- The first phase of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Incubation Zone will complete construction and go operational in 2020, bringing in state agencies, international organizations, enterprises and talented individuals from both sides, authorities said.

Located in the Gaoqiao Grand Market in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, the incubation zone will help promote China-Africa commodity transactions, technical cooperation and exchanges in other fields, according to the provincial department of commerce on Saturday.

It is expected to provide a one-stop service for enterprises in both China and African countries engaging in trade with each other, the department said.

Hunan is building the secretariat for the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, as well as other institutional, academic and financial entities to explore new models of cooperation with Africa.

China and African countries have notably advanced their cooperation in recent years, with multilateral platforms such as the China International Import Expo and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation playing a constructive role.

China has been the largest trading partner of Africa for 10 consecutive years. In 2018, the trade volume between China and Africa amounted to 204.2 billion U.S. dollars, up 20 percent year on year.

PODCAST | When it comes to tech, is there an Africa-China or China-Africa dynamic at play?

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2019-11-11-podcast-when-it-comes-to-tech-is-there-an-africa-china-or-china-africa-dynamic-at-play/>

In this episode of the African Tech Roundup podcast, Andile Masuku and The Subtext's Osarumen Osamuyi are joined by Iginio Gagliardone

11 November 2019 - 16:27 Andile Masuku

In this episode of the African Tech Roundup podcast, Andile Masuku and The Subtext's Osarumen Osamuyi are joined by Iginio Gagliardone for a candid introductory chat about the budding Africa-China/China-Africa tech collaboration dynamic.

Iginio is an associate professor in medias studies at Wits University and an associate research fellow in new media and human rights in the programme in comparative media law and policy (PCMLP) at the University of Oxford. He is also the author of a new book called "China, Africa and the Future of the Internet", which has taken him the better part of 10 years to write.

This context-setting conversation covers a lot of ground. Some of the questions discussed include the following:

Where big money movements in the tech and innovation sector are concerned, is there an Africa-China or China-Africa dynamic at play? [12:17]

How committed is China to promoting mutual commercial beneficiation in Africa? [15:51]

Is there substance to the perception that "everyone has a plan for Africa, except Africa"? [20:13]

Are there any "good guys" left, and if so, is China one of them? [25:02]

Is China's influence in African "technopolitical" circles inducing a neo-Third World psyche?
[30:23]

The episode is chock-full of fascinating, real-world anecdotes, provocative ideas for how things can and should be and even a lively lightning round near the end of the show that elicited reflex takes on Africa-China tech stories that have trended over the last short while.

This podcast is brought to you by African Tech Roundup in partnership with MultimediaLIVE.

African Tech Roundup is a Johannesburg-based media and insights organisation, aka village square, which tracks the progress of Africa's emerging digital, tech and innovation industries.

UN / AFRICA :

AU hails peace, security partnership with UN across Africa

Source: Xinhua| 2019-11-12 00:10:35|Editor: Mu Xuequan
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/12/c_138547156.htm

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The meeting, among other things, envisaged to uplift joint efforts of the AU and UN to reflect and focus on opportunities and progress that concern the two organizations' strategic partnership.

UN: Al-Shabab Remains 'Potent Threat' in Somalia and Region

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/un-al-shabab-remains-potent-threat-somalia-and-region>

By Associated Press November 12, 2019 10:03 PM

UNITED NATIONS - Al-Shabab extremists in Somalia remain "a potent threat" to regional peace and are now manufacturing home-made explosives, expanding their revenue sources and infiltrating government institutions, U.N. experts say.

The panel of experts' report to the Security Council, circulated Tuesday, said a significant escalation of U.S. airstrikes targeting al-Shabab militants and leaders has kept the al-Qaida-linked group "off-balance" but has had "little effect on its ability to launch regular asymmetric attacks throughout Somalia."

The report said al-Shabab's assault on Jan. 15 on a commercial business complex in Nairobi, Kenya, containing the DusitD2 Hotel "illustrates the danger the group continues to pose to regional peace and security." That attack killed 21 people as well as four gunmen.

The experts also cited "an unprecedented number" of attacks across the Kenya-Somalia border by al-Shabab in June and July, "possibly in an effort to exploit strained relations between the two countries."

Map of Kenya and Somalia

Kenya: Police Chief Says Roadside Bomb Kills 11 Officers

Officers' patrol car was blown up on Damajale Hare Hare road near the town of Liboi

The panel, which monitors sanctions against Somalia, also reported on the arrest last Dec. 17 of a Somali national linked to the Islamic State extremist group in Bari, Italy, in connection with a planned attack on the Vatican and other targets to coincide with Christmas celebrations.

The experts said the plot by Omar Moshin Ibrahim, also known as Anas Khalil, to plant a bomb in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Day "was rudimentary and had little chance of success." Intercepted communications indicated Ibrahim devised the plan on his own and was not directly tasked by Islamic State operatives outside the country, the panel said.

Still, the Vatican plan was the first instance in which Islamic State elements in Somalia "were directly linked to an attempted terrorist attack outside the country," it said.

After three decades of civil war, extremist attacks and famine, Somalia established a functioning transitional government in 2012 and has since been working to rebuild stability. But U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said it must still tackle violent extremism, terrorism, armed conflict, political instability and corruption.

The panel stressed that while an African Union peacekeeping mission and the Somali army hold the majority of urban centers in Somalia, "al-Shabab maintains direct control or influence over vast swaths of the hinterland and is able to cut off main supply routes" and isolate government pockets.

The experts said that for the first time they obtained "definitive evidence that al-Shabab has been manufacturing home-made explosives since at least July 20, 2017," based on post-blast analyses carried out by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. The data established that al-Shabab carried out at least 11 attacks with improvised explosive devices in Somalia using home-made explosives, they said.

Al-Shabab previously relied on military grade explosives, obtained mainly from remnants of war and munitions captured from the AU peacekeeping mission, the experts said.

"The manufacture of home-made explosives means that the group may now have access to far more readily available inputs for the construction of such devices," they said.

During the past year, the panel noted, al-Shabab carried out "an unprecedented number of improvised explosive device attacks." It said al-Shabab used improvised explosive devices to kill

and injure civilians in restaurants, marketplaces, camps for displaced people, shopping centers, government offices and hotels.

The experts said al-Shabab's infiltration of government institutions reached the office of Mogadishu's mayor on July 24, when a female suicide bomber blew herself up and killed at least 10 people, including Mayor Abdirahman Omar Osman and three district commissioners.

Mogadishu Mayor Abdirahman Omar Osman is seen at an event in Mogadishu

In Shock and Tears, Mogadishu Mourns Loss of Slain Mayor

Abdurahman Omar Osman, 53, was the highest-level Somali government official killed in the city's frequent deadly terrorist attacks in recent years

Al-Shabab said afterward that its target had been the new U.N. envoy to Somalia, James Swan, who had left the office minutes earlier.

The experts said it later emerged that the suicide bomber had been employed at the office since May 2018 under an assumed identity. They said an accomplice, also employed in the office under a false name, was still being sought.

The panel said money is not a limiting factor for al-Shabab, saying its "taxation" of all aspects of Somalia's economy "is undiminished, and has likely expanded."

The experts cited preliminary evidence indicating al-Shabab has started taxing imports into the port of Mogadishu.

"The group also continues to take advantage of virtually unregulated mobile money and domestic banking services to collect and transfer revenues throughout the country," the report said.

US / AFRICA :

Africa in the news: US – Africa updates, South Sudan unity government, and Mauritius elections
Dhruv Gandhi Saturday, November 9, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/11/09/africa-in-the-news-u-s-africa-updates-south-sudan-unity-government-and-mauritius-elections/>

US. hosts GERD dam talks and U.S. – Cameroon relations. On Wednesday November 6, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin hosted foreign ministers from Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan to discuss issues related to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) under construction in Ethiopia. The hydropower project is expected to be the largest in Africa when completed. Keeping in mind that the Nile river runs south to north, Egypt has raised concerns about the filling and operationalization of the dam, warning the project will reduce water supplies to the country. A joint statement published after the meeting announced that the foreign ministers would meet again in Washington on December 9 and January 13,

with the goal of finalizing an agreement by January 15. If an agreement is not reached by the deadline, the countries agreed to invoke Article 10 of the 2015 Declaration of Principles, which would bring in an international mediator to resolve the dispute.

In other news, President Trump announced that the U.S. would cut Cameroon's preferential trade access under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) starting January 1, 2020 in response to human rights violations by the country's government in the ongoing Anglophone crisis, which began in 2016.

Cameroon's exports to the U.S. were \$220 million last year. In a statement, C.J. Mahoney, deputy U.S. trade representative, noted that cutting Cameroon's preferential access "underscores the Administration's commitment to upholding the human rights criteria as required in the AGOA legislation."

2020 U.S.-Africa Business Summit To Be Hosted In Morocco

November 9, 2019 / <https://www.africa.com/2020-u-s-africa-business-summit-to-be-hosted-in-morocco/>

Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) will host the next edition of the U.S -Africa Business Summit in June 2020 in Marrakech, Morocco. Building on the momentum of this year's Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, which focused on advancing a resilient and sustainable U.S.-Africa partnership, CCA will return to the continent next June for the 13th iteration of its flagship conference.

"We are delighted to return to the continent for the 2020 Summit and look forward to partnering with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. The 2019 Summit in Maputo, Mozambique was a tremendous success and the caliber of engagement by U.S. and African business and government leaders was outstanding. The partnerships forged, investment opportunities identified, and deals closed are still being cited by attendees, and we intend to expand on these outcomes at the 2020 Summit in Morocco." said Florizelle Liser, President and CEO, Corporate Council on Africa.

Following a strategic selection process, CCA's Board of Directors selected the Kingdom of Morocco as the host for the 2020 Summit. Having rejoined the African Union and signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, Morocco has demonstrated its commitment to promoting economic development in Africa, making it an ideal destination for the 2020 Summit and the first time CCA will organize the Summit in North Africa.

Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco at a meeting with CCA President and CEO, Florizelle Liser in Washington, DC

Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United States, urged businesses to take advantage of the unique opportunities that will be presented at the Summit in 2020. “As the gateway to Africa, Morocco is committed to increasing business and investment on the continent and is pleased to partner with the Corporate Council on Africa to host the 2020 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Marrakech.”

Starting this year, CCA will hold the U.S.-Africa Business Summit annually, with the aim of providing CCA members, investors, and key U.S.-Africa business stakeholders with the opportunity to stay abreast on the latest developments in business and investment across Africa.

Since its inception in 1997, CCA’s Summit has been considered as the essential conference on U.S.-Africa business and investment. With over 1300 attendees, the 2019 Summit witnessed a remarkable level of engagement, including participation by heads of state, vice presidents, and prime ministers from 9 African countries, ministers from more than 25 countries, more than 100 senior U.S. government officials and an exceptional line-up of global business leaders from a variety of sectors.

Distributed by African Media Agency (AMA) on behalf of the Corporate Council on Africa.

EU / AFRICA :

Second EU-Africa Business Summit Convenes in Marrakech / November 7, 2019

<http://northafricapost.com/35261-second-eu-africa-business-summit-convenes-in-marrakech.html>

Following the successful first edition, the EU-Africa Business Summit returns to Marrakech November 28-29, with the participation of influential African and European policymakers, business leaders and experts.

Over two days, the Summit will provide a platform for engaging debates, high-level panel discussions and inspiring sharing and steering sessions on industrialization and value chain development, rural development and agriculture, the challenges of digitalization and investment opportunities in renewable energies.

The over 300 participants will have an opportunity to discuss the future economic relations between the EU and Africa, investment opportunities and the establishment of sustainable partnerships between the two sides.

The summit organizers say the event is meant to debate political, economic, social and environmental issues to promote the voices of enterprises in Europe and Africa. In order to move towards a more efficient partnership between the two continents, a multi-sectorial dialogue must promptly be consolidated at both institutional and business levels and the public and private sectors must join forces at inter-continental, regional and local levels.

High-level speakers from important international institutions such as the African Union, the African Development Bank, UNIDO and the Hassan II Fund for Economic and Social Development will take part in this event.

Africa Investment Forum: EU commits R745mn to developing South African SMMEs

<https://www.cnbc africa.com/videos/2019/11/13/africa-investment-forum-eu-commits-r745mn-to-developing-south-african-smmes/>

The European Union is funding a project worth R745 million to support the develop small to medium enterprises in South Africa. This will be used to address some of the challenges that SMMEs face, and to build the capacities of the key actors including government departments and the private sector. Daniel Chiwandamira of EDSE spoke to CNBC Africa's Kopano Gumbi.

November 13, 2019

Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan

November 12, 2019 by European Union

<https://europeansting.com/2019/11/12/africa-europe-alliance-two-new-financial-guarantees-under-the-eu-external-investment-plan/>

Today in the margins of the 2019 Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, the European Commission signed two guarantee agreements with two Member States' development finance institution: the Dutch 'Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V' (FMO)

and the Italian ‘Cassa Depositi e Prestiti’ (CDP). These guarantee agreements are part of the implementation of the EU External Investment Plan, the financial arm of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica said: “The agreements signed today, worth €70 million, will help us to unlock more than €500 million in new investment in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood. These guarantees aim at mitigating and sharing the risk with other private investors in countries where otherwise these investments would not be as attractive. They will help to boost access to finance for small businesses, notably in the tech sector – and create up to 175,000 jobs directly and indirectly.”

Two guarantees, one goal: more investment in partner countries

The two guarantees will significantly boost investment and access to finance for small businesses (MSMEs), especially in the technology sector, in the countries covered by the Plan.

FMO Ventures Programme

This €40 million guarantee agreement is a partnership with FMO, the Dutch development bank. It targets Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU Neighbourhood. It will guarantee venture capital provided by FMO to start-up companies, in particular led by young entrepreneurs. The companies will use technology to lower the costs of making or supplying products and services that were previously unaffordable to many people. The guarantee will target companies offering digital solutions in a wide range of areas, from agriculture, access to energy and financial services to education, healthcare, transport and logistics. It will support up to 125,000 new jobs, directly and indirectly.

Archipelagos One4A – One Platform for Africa

The €30 million Archipelagos guarantee agreement is a partnership with Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), the Italian Development Bank, and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It will support access to finance across Africa for high potential small businesses. In order to help their growth, the programme supported by the guarantee will provide financing through innovative capital markets solutions. It will also enable financing partners to share the risk of investing in projects. By doing so it will generate up to 50,000 jobs, many for young people, and benefit about 1,500 small businesses in 10 African countries.

These guarantees are part of the External Investment Plan, which, by investing €4.5 billion, is set to leverage €44 billion in total investment. Out of the total budget, the EU has already allocated €4.2 billion.

Background

The EU External Investment Plan is using €4.5 billion in public funds to leverage €44 billion by 2020 in public and private investment for development in countries neighbouring the EU and in Africa.

The plan has three pillars. The first is finance. Through financial guarantees, the EU mitigates the risk in countries with difficult environments so that private investors and development banks will lend to entrepreneurs or finance development projects.

The plan’s second part is technical assistance. This funds experts who help develop new projects, to the benefit of will authorities, investors and companies. Technical assistance may include, for example, market intelligence and investment climate analysis, targeted legislative and regulatory

advice, support to partner countries in implementing reforms, chains and identification, preparation, and help to carry out necessary investments.

The third part is investment climate support. The EU works closely with governments in partner countries to help them improve the conditions which investors consider when making their decisions. These include the business environment and a country's political and economic stability. The EU also brings together governments and business to discuss investment challenges.

The External Investment Plan is a key part of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, launched by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September 2018. The Alliance aims to boost investment which creates jobs and promotes sustainable development.

Africa offers a test to von der Leyen's 'geopolitical Commission'

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/africa/news/africa-offers-a-test-to-von-der-leyens-geopolitical-commission/>

By Benjamin Fox | EURACTIV.com

The field competing for influence in Africa is becoming increasingly crowded. In late October, President Vladimir Putin proclaimed that the first Russia-Africa summit in Sochi had 'opened up a new page in the history of Russia's relations with African countries'.

The UK, meanwhile, will host its own African trade and investment forum in January as it seeks to establish new economic and political ties with the continent post-Brexit. India and Japan are also seeking to expand their connections with the continent.

The challenge for Ursula von der Leyen, who has billed her new European Commission as a 'geopolitical Commission', is that the EU will have to improve its offer to African leaders, and quickly. Even though her team is yet to formally take office, the annual EU-Africa business summit hosted in Morocco at the end of November, will be one of the first opportunities for the EU to make an impression with their African counterparts in the new legislative term.

The early signs are that the new Commission will seek to develop a more strategic relationship with the African continent and individual countries, with the rhetoric focusing on 'partnerships with' Africa rather than programmes 'for' it.

The title of 'International Partnerships Commissioner' suggests that the EU plans to move away from traditional donor/recipient relations, and the nomination of Jutta Urpilainen, a former finance minister who served as her country's special envoy to Ethiopia between 2017 and 2019, has been widely welcomed.

'Africa must become an even greater priority for us,' Trade Commissioner-designate Phil Hogan told MEPs at his hearing.

In her hearing with the European Parliament's Development Committee, Commissioner-designate Urpilainen, promised to "complete a modern strategic partnership" with Africa, with economic relations focused upon "the private sector being involved in creating jobs and providing skills."

“We must turn our backs on the old narrative of Africa as a continent of instability and welcome Africa as a young continent of hope and prosperity,” added Urpilainen.

Jean-Claude Juncker’s Commission took four years to devote much time to EU-African trade, surprising many when he offered the prospect of a ‘partnership of equals’ with the African ‘sister continent’ based around a continent-to-continent trade deal in his final ‘State of the Union’ speech in September 2018.

The African Union in the process of drawing up regulatory standards for the African Continent Free Trade Agreement, a project for which the EU executive has provided €50m to fund technical support.

There is a sense of frustration among many African governments at the EU’s defensive attitude to increasing Chinese influence and investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

“The Europeans need to wake up from their sleep,” a senior African diplomat told EURACTIV.

“They complain that the Chinese have been taking over, but we are open to them. They have left their space. The Europeans have to take advantage of these opportunities,” he added.

“The Turkish and Indian companies are increasing their investment. The blame should be more on Europe, not on African countries for accepting Chinese investment.”

Chloe Teevan, a Policy Analyst at the European Centre for Development Policy Management says that the new job titles and mission letters for the incoming commissioners suggest there is an awareness that EU-Africa relations needs to become more strategic.

One of the problems facing that the Juncker Commission was that member states were unwilling to give up the big political decision making on foreign policy, and Africa policy has suffered as a result.

“There was very little willingness to give up any political control,” says Teevan, pointing to policy on war-torn Libya, which has been an EU priority for some time but where member states have carved out their own interests, with the likes of Italy agreeing migration-control with the Libyan coastguard, and member states divided between supporting Khalifa Haftar’s rebel Libyan National Army against the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord.

The result, says Teevan, was “very incoherent”, with the EU made to look “powerless and weak”.

Similarly, Europe’s involvement in the G5 Sahel anti-terrorism project has been led by France, Germany and the UK.

Post-Cotonou dilemma

While the mood music from von der Leyen’s mission letters and the Commissioner hearings there is little sign that anything has changed on migration policy.

Teevan points out that the mission letter to Urpilainen still uses the phrase ‘for Africa’ and adds that when it comes to migration – which will be handled by former Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas under the title ‘Protecting our European way of life’ – “this tone of using aid as leverage for EU migration remains”.

Elsewhere, the internal divisions within the Commission, primarily between DG DEVCO and the European External Action Service, about whether to keep pursuing traditional/donor-aid relations, and post-Cotonou via the ACP.

The twenty year old Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific expires in February and there is little chance of a new deal being agreed and ratified in time. Talks have moved slowly, in part because of unhappiness among many African countries that it is the ACP, which many see as an outdated institution, rather than the African Union.

Carlos Lopes, the African Union Commission's high representative on Cotonou, has warned that keeping the ACP framework will make it harder for the EU to agree on a 'continent-to-continent instrument'.

"The ACP is not an important political player. If EU aid disappeared there's a big question about whether the ACP would still exist," says Teevan.

But the recent strengthening in relations between the EU and Morocco do signify a move to a 'partnership of equals', she says.

"It is definitely becoming the most advanced relationship," says Teevan, noting that both Moroccan and EU priorities are covered in the joint statement released by Federica Mogherini and Rabat's foreign minister Nasser Bourita in June, which paves the way for talks on a new free trade and political deal.

"There is room when it comes to trade and investment and areas where the EU has a lot to offer. But it needs to be more united and more strategic on what it wants to do with Africa," says Chloe Teevan.

"The future of Africa is the future of Europe. There are 1.2 billion [people] living in Africa and more than half of them are under 25 – it's a continent of opportunity," Urpilainen told MEPs last month.

The next twelve months will test whether the EU is ready to grasp that opportunity.

{Edited by Samuel Stolton}

EU Approval of First Ebola Vaccine is Game Changer

By Lisa Schlein / November 12, 2019 12:59 PM

<https://www.voanews.com/science-health/eu-approval-first-ebola-vaccine-game-changer>

GENEVA - This week the European Commission gave approval to a Ebola vaccine — an act that the World Health Organization calls landmark moment for global health and a likely game-changer in the battle against this deadly disease.

This is the first time an Ebola vaccine has been licensed anywhere in the world. The next step, prequalification by the World Health Organization, is expected within days.

Prequalification means WHO is satisfied with the vaccine's quality, safety and effectiveness.

WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier tells VOA this is an important step and a great achievement for public health.

“This will speed up any further process of getting a vaccine into a country for licensing, for manufacturing, for having more quantity of the vaccine whenever we need it or ahead of a presumed outbreak in order to vaccinate health care workers and first-line responders to have them ready for the battle against Ebola,” said Lindmeier.

The vaccine, in its experimental stage, has been and continues to be used in the ongoing Ebola epidemic in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. It has been used to protect more than 250,000 people in the DRC's Ituri and North Kivu provinces.

Lindmeier says WHO has developed a roadmap aimed at accelerating prequalification and licensing of the vaccine. This will enable the agency to quickly roll out the vaccine in high risk countries in Africa.

“What does this mean right now for the Democratic Republic of Congo? Right now, nothing will change because the vaccines as they are available will be used... But it is absolutely great news to see that this has now been approved and will be prequalified,” said Lindmeier.

Lindmeier says there likely will be a higher demand for Ebola vaccine in coming years. He says WHO is working with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners to develop a Global Ebola Vaccines Security Plan to fulfill growing needs and to ensure vaccine security.

INDIA / AFRICA :

ArcelorMittal to shut Saldanha steel plant in South Africa

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-arcelormittal-to-shut-saldanha-steel-plant-in-south-africa-562942>

The company, majority-owned by ArcelorMittal, announced on its website that "568 people work at the plant which has produced steel products for more than two decades." As part of a strategic review of its operations, the steel manufacturer found that its Saldanha operations had lost their competitive cost advantage to compete in the export market, "mainly due to raw material and regulated prices"

ArcelorMittal's South Africa unit on Monday announced it was shutting its steel operations at Saldanha, which was suffering "severe financial losses". The company, majority-owned by ArcelorMittal, announced on its website that "568 people work at the plant which has produced steel products for more than two decades." As part of a strategic review of its operations, the steel manufacturer found that its Saldanha operations had lost their competitive cost advantage to compete in the export market, "mainly due to raw material and regulated prices", fin24.com reported.

ArcelorMittal said Saldanha's losses were forecast to continue for the future. The plant's production facilities will be shut down, which will leave it only on "care and maintenance" by the first quarter of 2020. "This difficult decision was taken in the context of constructive ongoing engagements with key stakeholders, including government and organised labour, to find alternative solutions to the dire situation in the South African steel industry," the company said. Sales orders will be fulfilled from the group's Vanderbijlpark Works.

The company is still deciding on the future of its Newcastle operations, and certain of its long steel products rolling facilities. "Exploration of the benefits of a concentrated operating footprint will be of foundational importance during this phase of the review." The company had announced planned retrenchments as part of "large-scale restructuring" in July. The next phase of its review will focus on its operations in Newcastle, in the eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal and some long-steel products rolling facilities, it said, adding that exploration of the benefits of a concentrated operating footprint will be central to this.

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